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## Oil market firms as producers switch to fixed-price system



## by auentin peec. in brussala




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## Island cut off




## Racal to buy out Vodafone partners

















 CONTENTS

France: railway strikers take a hard line UK: old airfield become London's third airport
$\qquad$ the entrepreneur . . . . . 5 Technology: natural answers to medical problems Editorial comment: trade

Screen systems: through a glass darkly Words of advice: to Ronald Reagan, Norman Tebbit . . Africa: hunger and hatred in Lex: Guinness; Racal; Marks Spacer US markets: gambling on in-

## Guinness <br> share deal may have breached <br> rules <br> gitiventitum


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## Europe's big steelmakers look for ways to stem the tide of falling prices












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## Violence breaks out in Punjab as militant Sikhs call strike

##  <br> ＇Black money＇deals under fire

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## Big fall in Chinese oil earnings

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Gerald Bourke reports on Brazzaville＇s response to declining oil revenues

## Congo joins queue for IMF loans

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## Year of half steps for law

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MEDSERV CORPORATION
Through its subsidiary PRIMEDICA，INC．

## has acquired the assets of

 INHALATION THERAPY SERVICES，INC．
## from

AMERICAN MEDICAL INTERNATIONAL，INC．

UK NEWS

## Banks to sue 22 states over Tin Council debts




# Biotechnology is booming inWales. <br> Is it something in the water? <br> There are now 123 biotech research projects being conducted in 

Welsh Universities and 36 biotech companies in full operation in Wales<br>Government-sponsored competition -the Small Firms Merit Awards (SMART).<br>Their entries were distinguished by their<br>exceilence and novetty of proposal' as well as their commercial potential.<br>The reason is the back-up that biotech companies enioy in Wales.<br>They get support from the Universities<br>They get made-to-measure financial deals. They get buildings tailor-mad for their kind of work, with plenty of room for expansion.<br>If you think your biotech compary should be where work action is.<br>send off the coupon or dial 100 and ask for freefone Wales.<br>\(\left[\begin{array}{l}want to know<br>about Wales\end{array}\right.\)

## Entrepreneurs <br> Rags to richesfact or fiction?

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| Business Opportunities |  |
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## Contemporary, not trendy

Peter Marsh reports on the search for a company name丞:


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Drug companies change the nature of medical research

Peter Marsh reports on advances in alternative forms of health treatment


Well-being among the primroses

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Business Pages has been carefully designed to solve business problems, not create them. entical index frontand back identical index front and back. So you'll find what you're looking for You'll also find a useful 14 sector formiat designed to save you time. (Under 'Textiles and Clothing'
for example, you'll find everything from underwear, to overalls,) . Andwhenyouknowthename and telephane but not the address and telephone number, you'll find listings. Business Pages is publish editions. Each relates to one of the


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major industrial/commercial centres

TaicCOM Forfurtherinformation please contact Geoffrey Fry, Britsh


William Packer looks back over the visual arts during 1986

## A year of consolidation, confirmation and reassessment


#### Abstract

      




## FINANCIALTIMES

Telegrams: Finantimo, London PS4. Telex: 8954871
Tuesday December 301986

## Transatlantic trade wars

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## Letters to the Editor



Airport planning-a potent creator of myths

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## Stick to Powellism





Wendy Levy reports from a town caught in the crossfire of a bitter civil war

## Hunger and hatred in Southern Sudan

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By Janot Bush in London
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## World Weather <br>  <br> 1 <br> \%

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## Peking students defy ban on marches

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## INTL. COMPANIES AND FINANCE

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## WARRINGTON RUNCORN

The Financial Times proposes to publish a survey on the above on: MONDAY

## FEBRUARY 91987

For further details, please contact: BRIAN HERON on 061-8349381 (Telex: 666813) FINANCIAL TIMES Europe's Business Newspaper


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## UK COMPANY NEWS

## Blue Arrow expansion in US



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## UK COMPANY NEWS

## US debut for Pru shares



## Barrow hopes Tor deal will stop Yule Catto












## Owl Creek acquisition



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Lacy Kellaway on how the oil independents weathered the storm of 1986

## Putting a plug on the cash outflow



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## APPOINTMENTS

## Chairman of Long John International



## CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS



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## COMMODITIES AND AGRICULTURE

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Financial Times Tuesday December 301906







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## OVER-THE-COUNTER Naddeq national market closting prices



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## Indices





## FINANCIAL TIMES

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Kidder, Peabody International

## NYSE COMPOSITE CLOSING PRICES

## FINANCIAL TIMES <br> WORLD STOCK MARKETS

WALL STREET

## Sales revival

 fails to help storesWITH MANY investors marking time during another holiday-sbortened week, ing yesterda
Credit markets were similarly quiet, athough bond prices retreated quiere background of a weaker dollar and high roil prices. cosed down 18.28 at $1,912.12$. nearag its on point of the day. The NYSE All Com-
on index lost $S 1.25$ to S139.89. Trading mon imdex lost Sl. Ahreeto-one. Among blue chips, American Express
slipped S\% to $S 58 \%$. AT\&T eased S th to $25^{\%}$, Chevron gained $\mathrm{S}^{1 / 2}$ to $\$ 45 \%$, McDo1205 , Philip Morris S123/, and United Technologies lost SK\% to
$\$ 46 \%$. Merck fell $\$ 4$ to $\$ 125$ dragging down other drug companies with it Its shares succumbed to proir taking atter
rising more than 512 last week
Despite indications that retail sales
picked up in the last few days before picked continued to slide J. C. Penney lost $\$ 1 \%$
to $\$ 72 \%$. Federated Department Stores dropped $\$ 11 \%$ to $\$ 837$ and Sears Roebuck eased 5 to $\$ 40 \%$ while K matr was un-
changed at 544 and Woolworth edged up \$\%. Borg Warner fell \$\% to $\$ 39 \%$. Mr Irwin Borg Warner fell 14 to to S39\%. Mr irwin
Jacobs, the Minneapolis-based corporate raider, said be bad an option from bro-
kers Bear, Stearns to buy 1m shares khich would raise his Borg Wharner
whake to about 124 per cent The compt ny is figbting efforts by a Jacobs-led investment group to take it over. Pandick fell $S \$ \%$ to $\$ 25 \%$ on volume of
more than $1 m$ shares by early afternoon making it the most active New York Stock Exchange issue. The financial and
corporate printer said it was sticking corporate printer said it was sticking
with a management buy-out proposal at
$505 \%$ a share despite the
 Purolator Courier was up $\mathrm{S} \%$ to $\mathrm{S} 27 \%$. Last week it arreed to sell its Canadian
aperations for 5170 m to Onex Capitial of operation
Toronto Zenith National Insurance gained \$\% to s22\%. Reliance, the insurance group
rum by Mr Saul Steinaerg, increased its
stake to 2 Sl stake to 24.1 per cent
Trading was likewise extremely thin
in the credit markets, making analysts ccuntious adoout marrews, making analysts The fall in bord prices by up to two-
thirds of a point was mostly attributed thirds of a point was mostly attributed
to a weaker dollar but some doubts had to a weaker dollar but some doubts had
also crept into the market about the di-
rection of the economy.


The price of the benchmark 7.50 per
 The oecine in preseswas stienerear the


 5 cin and yar bils mere up nine bass
 mists bhad been for a slowing of the eco-
nomic growth rate early next year. But nomic growth rate early next year. But
more are now beginning to question that more are now beginning to question that
view. In fact, the commerce Departments index of leading economic indica-
tors to be published this morning could tors to be published this morning could
showa strongos per cent rise in the No-
vember index from 0.0 per cent in Octoverber a index from 0.0 per cent in Octo-
ber.
Analysts will be watching closely tomorrow for signs from the November
trade figures that the recent trend of trade deficit reduction is being main
tained. Falling imports and rising ex

## EUROPE

## Brussels is main focus of activity

TRADING remained very light on most European bourses yesterday in the holl: year and no overall trend emerged The exception was Brusselest which en-
joyed an unexpected burst of activity at者 generally firmer close. move the Belgian maorket but leading
sbare Petrofina added BFr 60 to a 1986 mber he befigan market, but heading
sbare Petrina added BFr 60 to a 1986
high of BFr 9,970 on technical buying as high of BFr 9,970 on technical byying as
investors appeared to be testing the psy-
chological 10,000 thresbold before the Chemicals wre
 st following its forecast of broady level BFT 9,000 , a high for the yeor. Gevaert added BFr 130 to BFFr , 380 , but Solvay
lost BFr 110 to BFr 8200 . Frankfurt ended with prices little changed after a very quiet session in
which the dollar's fall through the DM . 95 level had only limited impact on some exporters. The Commerzzank in-
dex was up 5.4 from last Tuesday ạt
2049.0. The market lgnored Siemens" prob-
lems over US moves to bar sales of tele commurications equipment by foreign
suppliers and the blue chit advanced a
strong DM 33 to DM 746.50 .
The car sector, however, suffered
from the dollar's fall, with BMW down from the dollar's fall, with BMW down
DM 5 at DM 582, Daimber ex-rights off
DM 1.50 at DM $1,241.50$ and WW losing DM 2.30 to DM 430.90 .
and electricals were Bonds finished narrowly mixed after
a quiet session with many investors a quiet tession, with many investors
away for the boliday. The Bundesbank sold DM 18.7 m worth of paper in its dai-
ly market-balancing operation after selliing just $D M 3.0 \mathrm{~m}$ last Truesday.
Amsterdam also had a very thin ses sion with many investors staying awa and foreign buyying interest dampened
by the dollar's decline. The ANP-CBS General index was
Wednesday at 2795
KLM was off 50.0 cents at 140.20 afte last week's decision by the company's
supervisory board to withhold pernissipervisory board to withold permis
sion for the takeover of hilton potels. Zurich saw a little selective buysin turrover. Among gains, Swiss Reinsurance reg
istered stocks added SFr 225 to SFr 7,000 Paris suffered losses in thin volume
Nany buyers were kept away by the continuing rail were ketike in waw which tresi-
dent Minterrand yesterday urged his Government to intervenc.
Among lons losers. Maisons Phenix fen
FFr, 29 to heavy drop last Friday following its fore cast that
next year.
Milan trading was quiet and focused
on selective blue chips, with share prices ending slightly higher.
Stockholm closed narrowly mixed to
lower, while Oslo managed a sligbt rise in dull trading. utilities, oils and keys strack Tejefonica, which added 4.7 to 177.7 per cent of nom no, change index, up to now reses at 100 on
the first trading day of each year, will continue on January 1 from the last day
of 1986 .

## CANADA

THERE WAS little change in quiet share trading in Toronto, but golds fell
moderately and industrials, mining ismoderateiy and mastrials, mining is
sues and utilities were all down slighty.
Panking industrial and ming issies Banking, industrial and mining issues all fell slightly in Montreal. SOUTH AFRICA THE QUIET market mood continued.in Jobannesburg where golds firmed as the
gold price held steady above $\$ 330$ and
the closed mixed with a firmer bias.
Mining financials and most other min-

## токYO

Peaks and troughs of a liquid year
JAPANESE share prices fluctuated
widely in 198B and benefited from the widuty in liquidity asin mistitutional mivestors poured funds into the stock market in
the absence of business demand for fi nance caused by the deepening economJiji Press. From a low of 12,881 in January the Nikkei market average rose rapidy to a
record 18,936 on August 20 a a boost of 47 per cent. The average then fell to 15,819
by mid-October as concern mounted by mid-October as concern mounted
over the record rises, but it bounced
beck towards the end of the year. over the record rises, but it bor
beck towards the end of the year.
Most of the surphus licuinitity flowe Most of the surphus liquidity fylowed in
to the stock market through tokkin
funds" and tumd trots
 and accounting purposes. The balance of Tokyo is sh
holiday.
these accounts amounted to $\mathrm{Y} 17,3806 \mathrm{bn}$
( $\$ 10750 \mathrm{~m})$ at the end of October, up
 is expected to reach Yzo,000bn at the
end of this month indicating that thoboth
Y1,000 min in new funds pourred into the market every month
The fund managers were quite brulish agaimst the background of the yen's rise
against the dolar, cheaper cruane oil ind
falling interest totes falling interest rates since the beginning
of the year. of the year.
Without regard to such traditional investment crittria as ach price earainings in ra-
tios, investors played money tios, investors played "money games"
this summer, seeking to earn maximum capital gainsers
Buy orders
Euy orders for large-canital issues
such as steel and shipbuilding, which such as steel and shipburiding, which
were considered certain to become non-
dividend-paing dividend-paying due to the yeen's appre
ctiation, were placed with securities ctiation, were placed with securities
firms em lock of 10 ms shares worth $Y 3 b$,
to Trust banks with buge funds under management and investment advisory young employees as fund managers in
the face of mounting orders. These raw young players took part in the money
game, earning large capital gains


As a result record levels were seen not only in the Niikkei average but in

other indicators as well, such as the daiIy turnover on the first section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange and market capital | isation. |
| :--- |
| In Octo | In October, share prices tended sbarphad the benenest of the three major fac-

tors bolstering investor enthusiasm for tors bolstering investor enthusiasm
stocks - a stronger yen, cheaper crude stocks - a stronger yen,
oil and falling interest tates.
The Nilkei
average tumbled 17 per The Nikkei average tumbled 17 per
cent from the summer peak, with steels cent from the summer peak, with steels
and shipkbuiloings leading the way Nip-
pon Kokan fell 48 per cent from Y34 to pon
pokkan fell 48 per cent from Y346 to
Y180 and Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Y180 and Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy
Industries 47 per cent fromu Y64t to $Y 355$. The market rebounded from the
plunge towardis the end of the year. But the experience of the October sliump was so bitter that young fund managers
turred prudent and turnover remained
tome low at a third or a quarter of the sum
mer peakh
Thanks to the surge in share prices, however, many corporate treasurers earned proering, largely offsetting a de-
cial
dine engineering cline in operating profits.
Active trading on both the equity and
debt markets enabled the big four securities houses - Nomura, Daiwa, Nikko and Yamaichi - to earn an aggregate
recurring profit of Y986.0bn in the year recurring proit of Y986.abn in the year
to last September, the largest on record.
By By contrast, the five largest steel suffered an aggregate recurring loss of surfered an aggregate recurring loss of
Y184bn in the six months to last Septem-
ber.

## LONDON

AN IMPROVEMENT in Government London after the Christmes holiday. The FTSE 100 index closed 8.5 higber than Althe medrescay at $1,671.6$ and
dinary index added 5.9 to 1,307
Although market turnover was well below average there were a number of
highights incuding Marks and Spencer, up 2p at 181 p on turnover of 1.8 mm the US, metaing market
Reports from Amsterdam that Opec producers win a actionterthaim new pricing
levels on February 1 helped both ster ling and the giltedged market. The latter recouped mitital talls and by the close or SO.
Chief price changes, Page 23; Details,

HONG KONG
HEAVY posi-holiday buying purded Hong Kong sbare pigh. with the Hite Seng index gaining 23.33 2,552.45 from last Wednesday The local buying interest started gad In Taiwan, share prices reached amin time high. The stock exchange wecef index rose 10.84 to 1.059 .11, up 8.3
the previous record on Noprember


group, with overall market turnager wo
 od at Wednesday:
from Wed
Cheung Kong, its associare Hutchisem
Whampoa, and Hopewell Holdingest Whampoa, and repewel holdingt atil airport in the colony.
 well added 25 cents to HKS3.30.

## AUSTRALIA

STRONG SUPPORT for selected indas trials, golds and oils boosted Sydiney to a
record and the All Ordinaries index gained 5.2 to end at 1.457 .5 . surpossiese last Tuesday's $1,463.6$ record. Firmer gold and oil prices, hopes for ccerer do-
mestic interest rates and takeover actiry ity in the media secior improved sentiment However, tradirg
ed after the holidey break.
News Corp rose 30 ceats to As173e
 to AS12.75.

## SINGAPORE

FEATURELESS dull traiing took Sthige
pore lower as most investors stayed on pore lower as most aizestors stayed on the sidelimes atead of tre new year bodi-
day. The Straits Times indastriat hadex fell 3 points to 89820 .
Sri Hartamas, the most toctivity
traded issue. dropped 4.5 cents to traded issue. dropped 4.5 cents to 18 to 40.5 cents. Sime Darby held steady at S 1.92 .
OUB
OUB fell 6 cents to $\$ \$ 3.4$. The bank
later said thatit had uncovered froud iovvolving letters of creditit in its main Hone Voving letters of creditit in its main Hong
Kong branch and that an inquiry was in rogress.


